



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

GRANT, GREEN, IOWA, LAFAYETTE, RICHLAND, & ROCK

May 2005

Seasonal job growth leads to declining unemployment rates

All six of the counties that make up Southwest Wisconsin reported declines in their April unemployment rates, as compared to the previous month. Leading the charge was Iowa County, dropping 1.8 percent from March's 5.8 percent to a rate of four percent in April. However, Iowa County's April 2005 unemployment rate is 0.3 percentage points higher than the rate for April of last year. This increase from last April is at least partly the result of the changes in Iowa County's large retail trade industry. All six counties in Southwest Wisconsin experience seasonal fluctuations in their monthly unemployment rates. In the Southwest area Iowa County and Lafayette County seasonal fluctuations are especially pronounced. In Iowa's case, the strong retail trade industry is part of the reason for these pronounced seasonal fluctuations; in Lafayette, one of the most traditional reasons for Wisconsin's seasonal economy is the cause—agriculture. These two industries are especially dependant on weather and season.

The Janesville MSA's (Rock County) unadjusted April unemployment rate was 5.2 percent, dropping 0.5 percentage points from March's reading of 5.7 percent. Seasonal employment increases in construction and the leisure/hospitality industry helped lower April unemployment rates in the Janesville MSA.

All but one of the state's 72 counties posted a lower unemployment rate in April as the State of Wisconsin rate, not seasonally adjusted, dropped 0.8 percentage points to 4.7 percent. Seasonally adjusted the state rate in April was 4.5 percent.

Nationally, the number of work-

ers involved in mass layoffs rose in April to a seasonally adjusted 136,837, up 5,989 from 130,848 workers who filed state unemployment insurance claims as a result of mass layoffs in March, according to figures released by the US Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Nonfarm employers initiated 1,274 mass layoffs last month, an increase of 80 from March, when

industry estimates are only computed for these three counties combined (the federal definition of the Madison MSA). This publication will provide unofficial monthly employment-by-industry estimates for Iowa County based on interpolation and imputed averages. This imputed monthly industry data should be satisfactory for short-term small time-span data analysis but should NOT be used for long term trend analysis.

This change in the computation of monthly industry employment levels in

Labor Force Estimates (Unadjusted)			
	Janesville * MSA	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
Current month: April 2005			
Civilian Labor Force	83,300	3,032.6	148,274
Employment	79,000	2,888.9	140,939
Unemployment	4,300	143.6	7,335
Unemployment rate	5.2%	4.7%	4.9%
Change from one month ago			
Civilian Labor Force	-100	5.3	529
Employment	300	26.7	1,180
Unemployment	-500	-21.4	(651)
Unemployment rate	-0.5%	-0.8%	-0.5%
Change from one year ago			
Civilian Labor Force	1,200	-13.4	2,014
Employment	1,400	0.9	2,516
Unemployment	-300	-14.5	(502)
Unemployment rate	-0.4%	-0.5%	-0.5%
<i>Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.</i>			
<i>* Janesville MSA Statistics include all of Rock County</i>			

there were 1,194 such events. In April, manufacturing firms accounted for 395 events and 63,121 related UI claimants. Both figures were higher than a year earlier, when there were 360 manufacturing layoffs and 43,158 related UI claimants.

Notices: Officially, as of January 2005, neither the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) nor the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) produces monthly industry employment level estimates for Iowa County separate from Madison MSA (a three county conglomerate of Dane, Columbia, and Iowa counties). Official monthly employment-by-

Iowa County has no effect on the computation of monthly unemployment rates for Iowa County. As before, monthly unemployment rates are computed separately for Iowa County on an unadjusted basis.

Note on Substate Seasonal Data: As of January 2005, seasonally adjusted unemployment data is no longer available for sub-state (MSA) levels. Statewide and National unemployment rates continue to be available on both a seasonal and a non-seasonal (unadjusted) basis.

Southwestern Wisconsin Workforce Development Area

April 2005	Grant	Green	Iowa *	Lafayette	Richland	Rock	Region Non MSA's **	Wisconsin	
Civilian Labor Force***	27,017	18,812	14,207	8,514	9,980	83,338	161,868	78,530	3,032,586
Employed	25,879	17,956	13,638	8,173	9,503	79,037	154,186	75,149	2,888,939
Unemployed	1,138	856	569	341	477	4,301	7,682	3,381	143,647
Unemployment rate(%)	4.2	4.6	4.0	4.0	4.8	5.2	4.7	4.3	4.7
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ****	18,800	13,800	11,000	3,390	6,400	70,400	123,700	53,300	2,810,300
Total Private	13,700	11,800	9,500	2,400	5,200	61,600	104,200	42,600	2,387,700
Goods Producing	3,300	3,500	1,300	630	2,000	20,200	30,900	10,700	629,700
Service Producing	15,500	10,300	9,700	2,760	4,300	50,200	92,800	42,600	2,180,600
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	700	600	690	140	200	3,200	5,500	2,300	130,300
Manufacturing	2,600	2,900	660	480	1,800	17,000	25,500	8,500	499,400
Trade	2,700	2,700	5,700	700	1,100	11,900	24,700	12,800	427,300
Transportation & Utilities	400	300	220	210	100	3,000	4,300	1,300	108,300
Financial Activities	1,000	400	240	150	200	2,000	4,000	2,000	157,700
Education and Health Services	2,500	2,200	800	220	800	9,000	15,500	6,500	382,900
Leisure & Hospitality	1,500	1,200	850	240	500	6,000	10,300	4,300	246,800
Info., Prof.& Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	2,200	1,600	410	260	500	9,500	14,500	5,000	435,000
Total Government	5,090	2,030	1,460	980	1,160	8,800	19,500	10,700	422,600
Federal	170	100	100	60	60	300	800	500	29,200
State	2,050	30	100	40	180	500	2,900	2,400	104,800
Local	2,870	1,890	1,260	880	930	8,000	15,800	7,800	288,600
Change from one month ago	March 2005								
Civilian Labor Force***	-140	-70	-70	-130	40	-100	-460	-400	5,300
Employed	190	110	180	10	80	400	960	600	26,700
Unemployed	-330	-190	-260	-150	-50	-500	-1,430	-1,000	-21,400
Unemployment rate(%)	-1.2	-0.9	-1.8	-1.6	-0.5	-0.5	-0.9	-1.2	-0.8
Total Nonfarm (NFWS)****	170	120	150	-40	60	300	800	500	34,200
Percent change NFWS last month	0.9%	0.8%	1.3%	-1.2%	0.9%	0.4%	0.6%	0.9%	1.2%
Total Private	200	100	100	80	100	400	900	500	33,600
Goods Producing	100	100	100	50	0	200	500	300	10,300
Service Producing	100	0	100	-90	0	100	200	100	23,900
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	90	80	60	20	30	200	500	300	11,800
Manufacturing	20	30	0	30	-20	0	100	100	-1,500
Trade	20	-30	20	10	20	-200	-100	100	5,300
Transportation & Utilities	20	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	2,300
Financial Activities	-20	-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	300
Education and Health Services	10	-20	10	0	10	0	0	0	-1,100
Leisure & Hospitality	50	70	20	10	10	300	500	200	10,200
Svcs	-10	-10	10	10	0	100	100	0	6,300
Total Government	10	-10	20	-120	10	-100	-200	-100	600
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
State	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	700
Local	-30	-20	10	-120	10	-100	-200	-100	-200
Change from one year ago	April 2004								
Civilian Labor Force***	-290	100	100	-340	20	1,200	800	-400	-13,400
Employed	-230	170	-470	-290	50	1,500	1,200	-300	1,000
Unemployed	-60	-70	50	-50	-30	-300	-400	-200	-14,400
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.2	-0.4	0.3	-0.4	-0.2	-0.4	-0.3	-0.2	-0.5
Total Nonfarm (NFWS)****	-170	110	-50	-140	30	2,500	2,300	-200	26,600
Percent change NFWS last year	-0.9%	0.8%	-0.4%	-4.0%	0.4%	3.7%	1.9%	-0.4%	1.0%
Total Private	200	100	0	40	100	2,400	2,800	400	26,700
Goods Producing	0	100	0	10	0	2,500	2,500	0	6,500
Service Producing	-200	100	0	-150	0	0	-200	-200	20,100
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	20	30	-50	10	10	0	0	0	4,400
Manufacturing	-30	20	10	0	-10	2,500	2,500	0	2,100
Trade	30	-20	-70	20	0	-200	-200	0	3,800
Transportation & Utilities	0	0	10	10	10	-100	-100	0	2,400
Financial Activities	70	10	0	-10	10	0	100	100	100
Education and Health Services	100	-50	30	10	40	0	100	100	8,100
Leisure & Hospitality	-20	30	0	10	10	-200	-200	0	4,200
Svcs	10	60	30	-20	10	400	500	100	1,600
Total Government	-340	10	0	-180	-70	100	-500	-600	-100
Federal	-10	0	0	-10	0	0	0	0	-300
State	-310	0	0	10	-30	100	-200	-300	1,300
Local	-20	10	0	-170	-40	0	-200	-200	-1,100

* Since neither the US DOL nor Wisconsin DWD produces monthly NFWS INDUSTRY estimates for Iowa County, the NFWS INDUSTRY data for Iowa County presented here is based on interpolation

** Five counties, excluding Rock County *** Includes participants residing in area. **** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted.

Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2004